TARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) 3147/3148 Uttar Banga Express (bi-weekly) has been introduced between Sealdah (Calcutta) and New Cooch Bihar (North Bengal) with effect from 22.5.1998.

Rail Line from Udhampur to Jammu and Katra to Quazigund

2123. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Udhampur-Jammu and Katra-Quazigund rail line will be completed;

(b) the total allocated fund for this project for 1998-99 by Government;

(c) The steps being taken to expedite the work for completing the said work of Jammu-Srinagar rail line.

(d) the present position of railway projects in the Kashmir Valley; and

(e) the targets achieved in this regard so far by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Udhampur - Jammu line is targetted for completion in March 2000. Udhampur-Katra and Qazigund-Baramulla will be completed by March 2002 and Qazigund-Katra by March 2007 subject to the requisite funds being made available by the Planning Commission for which the requirement has been advised to them.

(b) Rs. 120 crs. has been provided in the Budget 1998-99 for these projects.

(c) Top priority is being accorded to these projects and adequate resources have been requested for the same, as mentioned in reply to part (a) of the Question.

(d) Final location survey is in progress for the Railway line in Kashmir Valley. It has already been completed for 5 stations. Land for Srinagar Station has already been acquired and for the balance portion, same is under process.

(e) The work is targetted for completion in 2002 and is being progressed to suit the target, subject to resources being made available as explained in reply to part(a) of the Question.

Tackling of crowd in compartments

2124. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway authorities failed to tackle unauthorised crowd entering Railway compartments in Poorva Express to Howrah from New Delhi on 3rd May, 1998; and

(b) the action proposed against recurring such behaviours in trains passing through Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK(: (a) In the captioned news-item published in the Hindustan Times of 5.5.98 that the passengers bound for Howrah via Patna by Poorva Express on 3.5.98 could not get their reserved berths as the same were occupied by the unauthorised passengers. However, no such instance of unauthorised occupants has been reported by any one either in terms of written complaint or verbally to Station authorities at New Delhi railway station.

(b) Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the ticket checking staff with the help of Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force personnel and the persons found travelling without/with improper tickets are dealt with as per the provisions of the Railway Act.

Shifting of Anand Vihar Railway Station of East Delhi

2125. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to relocate, shift or abandon the Anand Vihar Railway Station of East Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification therefor;

(c) whether the expansion plan of above station has since been shelved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the details thereof alongwith work progress, budget allocation, time frame, number of platforms proposed, approach roads

and its status in Railways planned expenditure Pink Book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Budget allocation was made for acquisition of land at Anand Vihar. Acquisition of 40 hectares of land and provision of a boundary wall to prevent encroachment is complete. Passenger terminals at Delhi, New Delhi, and Hazarat Nizamuddin stations, where works for augmentation of capacity are in progress, have not yet reached saturation points.

Development of Anand Vihar will be a need based exercise. Commercial and operational facilities will be decided depending upon the requirements at the proper time. Work will thereafter be sanctioned and will appear in the Pink Book.

Indo-Russian cooperation in the field of Science

2126. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Russian cooperation has been established in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the joint programmes launched during last three years and proposed to be launched in the coming three years in that field;

(c) whether any new project has been approved under Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP); and

(d) if so, the number of scientists in both the countries involved in various tasks under the ILTP along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNO-LOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Indo-Russian cooperation during the last three years the following programmes have been launched:

(i) Joint research projects

(ii) Exchange visits of scientists

(iii) Fellowship to Russian scientists

(iv) Bose-Lomonosov Lecture Series

(v) Inter-institutional Linkages

(vi) Thematic interaction groups

During the coming three years, besides continuing the above programmes, it is proposed to organise joint seminars/workshops and setting up of Technology Clearing Houses in the two countries.

(c) 22 new joint research projects have been approved for implementation under Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology between the two countries.

(d) About 500 scientists from over 150 scientific institutes of both the countries, are participating in various programmes under the ILTP.

Anti-pollutant fuel saving device

2127. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scientist of Calcutta has invented what is termed, "SMG-HAI" an anti-pollutant fuel saving device for use of automobiles; if so, at what stage of development the device stands and by whom it has been developed; and

(b) whether the blue-print of the device has been missing?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Sh. S.M. Ghosh, of SMG-HAI Technocrats (Pvt.) Ltd., Calcutta has claimed the invention as per his prize award application submitted to National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), which is a public enterprise under Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, in May 1995. M/s. SMG-HAI Technocrats (Pvt.) Limited, 195-A, Sarat Bose Road, Calcutta is claimed to be manufacturing and selling the device.